


The Modesto Bee



Beyer High teen with cancer gets special day



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Baylie Hankins visits with Newman police K-9 Ares and Officer Ashley Williams at the Stanislaus County Sheriff's Department Regional Training Center in Modesto on Friday. Baylie has long dreamed of becoming a police officer, specifically a K-9 handler.

Law enforcement agencies bring out K-9 units, fly her on helicopter

BY MARIJKE ROWLAND
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They say every dog has its day. And, at least for one day, a girl who loves dogs had hers, too.

Local law enforcement surprised Beyer junior and aspiring K-9 officer Baylie Hankins with the ride-along – and fly along – of her dreams Friday. The 16-year-old was treated to a full day of activities, including flying on a Sheriff's Department helicopter and the chance to meet more than two dozen police dogs.

Baylie has long dreamed of becoming a police officer, specifically a K-9 handler because of her love of dogs. But then last October, the Beyer cheerleader was diagnosed with Hodgkin lymphoma, a type of cancer that attacks the white blood cells and body's immune system. Since then, she has been out of school doing independent study while undergoing chemotherapy.



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A police dog stands with Baylie Hankins at the Stanislaus Sheriff's Department Regional Training Center in Modesto on Friday.

At the same time Hankins' mother, Season Newell, has been battling two types of cancer – melanoma and thyroid cancer. Newell, a single mom who is also raising Baylie's three brothers, is a former EMT who now works in pediatrics for the Stanislaus Health Services Agency.



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Baylie Hankins is hugged by friend Aree Terrill, left, after being surprised by classmates with a rally at Beyer High School on Friday.

VIDEO

Check out video of Bailey's big day.
[modbee.com](#)

Family friend Teresa Mahnke contacted one of her friends, California Highway Patrol K-9 officer Matt Fowles, to set up a ride-along for Baylie to help lift the family's spirits. He, in turn, reached out to other K-9 officers in the region and other departments across the state,

country and beyond.

"After hearing that backstory about her struggles and what she is fighting through every day and her family's struggles and what they're fighting through every day, I couldn't just give her a ride-along," Fowles said. "I wanted to make it a lot more special for her. I wanted to make it a whole entire day for her and to see everything

SEE BEYER TEEN, 3A

Russians indicted, accused of 2016 presidential election interference

BY SHARON LAFRANIERE
New York Times

WASHINGTON

The special counsel investigating Russia's interference in the 2016 presidential election charged 13 Russian nationals and three Russian organizations Friday with illegally trying to disrupt the U.S. political process, including efforts designed to

boost the presidential candidacy of Donald Trump and hurt that of his opponent, Hillary Clinton.

The indictment represents the first charges by the special counsel, Robert Mueller, for meddling in the 2016 presidential election – the fundamental crime that he was assigned to investigate.

In a 37-page indictment filed in U.S. District Court, Mueller said the 13 individuals have conspired since 2014 to violate laws

that prohibit foreigners from spending money to influence federal elections in the U.S.

The indictment charges that the foreigners falsely posed as U.S. citizens, stole identities, and otherwise engaged in fraud and deceit in an effort to influence the U.S. political process, including the 2016 presidential race.

"The nature of the scheme was the defendants took extraor-

dinary steps to make it appear that they were ordinary American political activists," Rod Rosenstein, the deputy attorney general overseeing Mueller's inquiry, said in a brief news conference Friday afternoon at the Justice Department.

Though the Russians are unlikely to be immediately arrested, they are now wanted by the U.S. government, which will make it hard for them to travel or do business internationally. All were charged with conspiracy to defraud the United States, three with conspiracy to commit wire

SEE RUSSIA, 6A

Seneca Foods to close its Modesto plant

BY DEKE FARROW
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Seneca Foods Corp. announced Friday that it will close its Modesto plant, which has 265 full-time employees.

A news release from the Marion, N.Y.-based company said, "Production operations at this location will cease prior to the 2018 production season. Warehouse operations will continue for an unspecified period serving as the company's West Coast distribution center."

In a phone call, Chief Financial Officer Timothy J. Benjamin was more specific, saying the 2018 production season "hasn't started, so we're shut down right now, and we won't start up. There won't be a production season" at the Modesto plant.

Located on Finch and Mitchell roads in the Beard Industrial District, the 2.12 million-square-foot facility primarily has been used for packaging and warehousing of Seneca's peach and fruit cocktail products.

It is closing "due to challenging economic conditions," the news release said. Again, Benjamin provided specifics. "The big driver behind this is that we have been running some big losses there the last few years. There's a lot of import competition from overseas – China and Europe – and it's tough for us to compete against that."

Also, the decreasing supply of product coming into the plant has made it difficult to operate the "huge" facility, he said. A lot of peach growers in the region have pulled their trees in favor of almonds and walnuts, Benjamin said.

The 2016 Stanislaus County Agricultural Report gives some context: Almonds are the top commodity in the county, with a 2016 value of nearly \$931 million. Walnuts were the sixth-largest commodity, at \$134.5 million, and

SEE PLANT CLOSING, 3A



ON NBC TV TONIGHT



Women's 1,500 and men's 1,000 speedskating; women's skeleton; men's ski jumping; men's giant slalom; men's slopestyle skiing

MEDAL COUNT				
Country	G	S	B	Tot
Norway	6	8	5	19
Germany	9	2	4	15
Netherlands	6	5	2	13
Canada	4	5	4	13
United States	5	1	2	8

As of 7 p.m. EST, Friday

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